NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Assessing Schedule Health – STAT!

Sound schedules are a key ingredient for successful project management. This session introduces the Schedule Test and Assessment Tool (STAT), a NASA developed tool that can be used for assessing schedule health and integrity. Past experience teaches us that a schedule's credibility is directly related to the integrity of its logic network. For this reason a project schedule must reflect the following characteristics; accurate and complete task sequencing, valid constraints, up-to-date progress, and realistic forecasting of task starts and completions. Determining if these characteristics exist is a crucial first step in conducting an objective and reliable schedule assessment. For schedules developed in Microsoft Project, the STAT tool provides an automated means of quickly and accurately assessing these characteristics. This session also demonstrates how the STAT tool can assist project schedulers in quickly evaluating other important schedule conditions, such as: schedule performance and work-off trending, monthly baseline execution rates, major milestone slippages, insight into lowest float paths, types of logic relationships used, and insight into the level of detail contained in IMS task durations. It is the goal of this session to show how this tool can increase, not only the efficiency of each project scheduler, but also the quality and integrity of each project schedule.

The STAT tool is a free product and available for anyone working on a government project. This includes contractors who are actively working on a government contract. Information on how to receive this tool will be provided during the session.

Ken Poole
Senior Project Controls Specialist
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Mr. Poole is a Senior Project Controls Specialist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, Alabama. His background includes 20 years of NASA experience in various aspects of program control including: Integrated Master Schedule (IMS)/logic network development, independent schedule assessment and analysis, schedule management and WBS training, Integrated Baseline Reviews (IBR's), and Earned Value Management (EVM). Since 2001, Mr. Poole has served as an integral member of a senior group of subject matter experts at MSFC. While serving in that capacity he co-developed the Schedule Test and Assessment Tool (STAT) which provides an automated capability for quick assessment of schedule structure and integrity. This tool has been used on many project schedule evaluations, not only at MSFC, but also at other NASA Centers and commercial locations. He is currently leading the effort in updating Agency handbooks for Schedule Management and Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) Development. Mr. Poole has also been involved in the development and implementation of various training courses provided at MSFC in the areas of scheduling, WBS, and Earned Value Management (EVM).

Prior to his service with NASA, Mr. Poole worked nine years in project planning and scheduling at multiple Nuclear Power construction projects in the Midwest and Southeast. Responsibilities during that period included; IMS development for Mechanical construction, IMS development for Construction and Preoperational Testing, System Turnover Scheduling, and general schedule analysis.

Glen Harrison
Senior Systems Analyst
BCF Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Harrison is a Senior Systems Analyst supporting the Performance and Capabilities Management Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, Alabama. He has worked in the IT industry for over 10 years with knowledge and experience in Systems Administration, Network Administration, Systems Analysis, Software Engineering and Database Administration. His primary customers have been companies such as: British Petroleum (BP), Shell Oil, Marathon Oil, and NASA.

Mr. Harrison is currently supporting MSFC in the development of earned value management (EVM) tools and processes required for in-house government project implementations. He has been the primary co-developer in the creation of multiple program control support tools such as: XML Connect, Schedule Test and Assessment Tool (STAT), and various other utilities that automate the creation of reports and graphs for NASA's project management community.